THE BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1922.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population ... 4,188. Number of families or separate occupiers (estimated) ... 1,072.
Area ... ... 26,500 acres. Number of inhabited houses ... . 1,230.
Rateable Value ... ... £27,984.
Sum represented by a penny rate ... £87.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate ..	82	51	31	Birth Rate (Registrar General) ...	20.5
	Illegitimate ...	4	2	2		
Deaths		70	34	36	Death Rate (Registrar General) ...	16.7

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth { From Sepsis ... ... 0; From other causes ... 0 }

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births { Legitimate ... ... 46.5; Illegitimate... ... ... 11.6 } TOTAL ... 58.1

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... 0
" " Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 0

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	2	2	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	0	0
Other Diseases, generally notifiable	—	—	—
" " notifiable locally	—	—	—
Tuberculosis:—			
(a) Pulmonary — M.	4	0	2
(a) Pulmonary — F.	6	0	2
(a) Pulmonary — Total	10	0	4
(b) Non-pulmonary — M.	1	0	0
(b) Non-pulmonary — F.	1	0	0
(b) Non-pulmonary — Total	2	0	0

The numbers in the above columns include all first notifications (whether Forms A, B, C, D, or by Death Certificate). The deaths in the above column refer only to those notified during the year. The total deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were 6, including one who suffered from Spinal Caries for 14 years and Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 3 months.

CASES.

	Notified.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Age incidence of cases.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-60	over 60
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	2	1	...
" Non-Pulmonary...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Age incidence of Deaths from :												
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

During the early months of the year, Influenza was very prevalent. At first the cases were very mild and seldom complicated by chest symptoms. Later the disease took a much more severe form. The number of deaths was small in consideration of the severity of the outbreak.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(a) NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Local Authority supports by annual subscription the various Nursing Associations which operate in the District, and one nurse is situated in Gestingthorpe and one in Foxearth. The area of the districts they have to cover is fairly extensive.
There is no special provision for home nursing in Infectious Diseases.

(b) MIDWIVES.

Three certified midwives practise in the District—two of these being the two District Nurses already mentioned, and the third working from Sudbury. No subsidy is given by the Public Health Authority.

(c) CLINICS AND MATERNITY CENTRES.

There are none in the district. An order transferring the Health Visiting under the Notification of Births Act from the Local Authority to the County Council was made during 1921, and two Health Visitors have been appointed—one for the Southern portion of the Halstead and Belchamp districts being stationed at Halstead, and one for the Northern portion at Sible Hedingham. The Health Visitors undertake the work of School and Tuberculosis Nursing.

(d) HOSPITALS.

1. TUBERCULOSIS. The joint Small-pox Hospital at Sible Hedingham is let to the County Council for the treatment of such cases.

2. MATERNITY HOSPITALS. } There are none available for the District.
3. CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS. }

4. FEVER HOSPITAL. There is an arrangement with the Colchester Borough Council under which cases from the District can be admitted to the Colchester Isolation Hospital.

5. SMALL-POX HOSPITAL. Under the letting agreement with the County Council, the joint Hospital at Sible Hedingham must be available if required.

6. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.
   (a) For infectious cases, under the agreement with the Colchester Borough Council, an ambulance is supplied.
   (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, no special ambulance facilities are available.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Facilities for the examination of clinical material and water samples are provided at the County Laboratory, 91, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. 4, under the County Bacteriologist, Dr. J. F. Beale. A considerable number of unofficial samples of drinking water have been taken and tested by the Sanitary Inspector.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) BYE-LAWS.

There are Bye-Laws which have long become obsolete, and a set of Bye-laws regulating new buildings in the District is being considered.

(b) TABULAR SUMMARY FROM SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT of the work done and action taken under the various Acts.

Complaints received	26
Total inspections and re-inspections	209
Nuisances detected	51
Notices served	51
Notices complied with	53

Overcrowding abated	0
Houses inspected under Section 17, 1909 Act ..	23
Houses unfit for habitation...	8
Houses with defects remedied	58
Additional Pail Closets to old property ...	6
Privies converted to Pail Closets	21
Slaughter Houses inspected	4
Bakehouses inspected...	14
Dairies and Cow Sheds inspected	27
Houses and Schools disinfected	15
New Houses erected	9
Public Pumps repaired	5
Private Wells sunk	4
Private Wells improved	9
Water Samples taken	18
Offensive Trades	1
Wells closed	1
Public Pumps and Springs	20
Workshops inspected	28

(*c*) **FOOD.**

1. Milk Supply.

Most of the milk consumed is produced in the District, which is a farming one. There are two organised dairies in the District, from which milk is sent to London and Clacton-on-Sea.

The requirements of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, are being put into operation.

2. Bake Houses. There are 14 in the District. In two cases only were insanitary defects found and these have been remedied.

3. Meat Supply. This is principally obtained from the adjoining towns.

4. Knacker's Yards. There is one in the District at Walter Belchamp. No complaint of any nuisance has been received.

5. Gut Scraping. There is one Sausage Skin workshop in the District, at Alphamstone; certain alterations are being carried out to the premises.

(*d*) ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION, &c.

House disinfection is done by the Sanitary Inspector. Disinfection and disinfestation can also be done by arrangement at a Steam Disinfector in Sudbury, belonging to the Sudbury Board of Guardians.

Compensation (10/-) was paid in one case for destruction of bedding.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).
One Sanitary Inspector (part time), Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total	9
(*b*) As part of a municipal Housing Scheme	0

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	209
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	23
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	62

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 48

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(*a*) by Owners 4

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close . . 0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 32

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(*a*) by Owners 58

(*b*) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 7

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 0

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit 7

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders . 0

10.—SPECIAL REMARKS.

There was quite a revival in the Building of New Houses during the year, and it is many years since so many houses were erected in the District in one year.

J. B. ALEXANDER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

MARTEN & SON, LD. SUDBURY